

Boston, February 8, 1852.

My dear Mr Estlin,

I am very deeply your debtor in the letter way; but I seem to feel every year & month better acquainted with you, and that both you and your daughter are indeed engaged with us in a common cause - a very dear cause, too, one to be all the more prized and loved, because it is ~~despitefully~~ used, slighted, and hated by the multitude of pleasure-seekers, of the rivals for worldly distinctions & rewards, & the like. Its adherents & friends, i.e., those who are ready to stand forth & openly avow themselves, such, are very few indeed; and yet we have no reason to complain of the progress of the cause, or to distrust its wide & deep influence. Among the few, who are really working, we gladly and always recognise you and your daughter as of the foremost - not only our helpers, but our co-workers, & counsellors. You indeed labour systematically & steadfastly, & with great perseverance; and that you do so, notwithstanding many infirmities of health & strength, is to us an admonition & an encouragement.

Doubtless Mr. Herbert Thomas has received, before this time, the note I addressed to her, informing her of the safe (& pretty seasonable) arrival of the huge Bristol boy - of the excellent condition

of its contents - and of the general result of
the Bazaar. Before you get this, too, you will
doubtless have received the Liberator which
contains Anne Weston's Report of the Bazaar,
which I am sure you will have read with
great interest. Our total receipts were some \$400.
less than last year, - I think the change of place,
where the Bazaar was held, will fully account for that.
Our expenses were greater, on account of the greater
rent charged for the Hall, and the greater amount of
foreign contributions (greater than ever before), making
a very large increase of Custom House duties. A
fair held at Worcester, on New Year's week, however
realised \$325. There is a handsome residue of
goods which, during the approaching summer, will
afford materials for several country fairs; and I
doubt not we shall get through the year, financially, without
discredit. - Your Box left you in what you
doubtless thought excellent season; but the vessel in
which it came had a very long & boisterous passage,
and ~~so~~ we had very nearly been disappointed in
getting it. It was a noble contribution, of beautiful
& valuable articles, for which we are, anew, greatly
indebted to our Bristol friends. - Several of
the more rare & curious foreign articles did not
bring this year the price which the donors intended,
and which we strove to get. Great pains were
taken to sell the Leeds Screen, for which Mr. Lupton
wrote me that £30. had been offered at Leeds and
refused, hoping that we should get not less
than 30 guineas, & many of them expecting that

we should get 40, or even 50, guineas. We fixed \$200. as the price, and it stood at that for a week. Several wealthy gentlemen were duly informed of its beauty & utility. But the result was that, towards the end of the Bazaar, the Ladies felt obliged to reduce the price to \$100., and it ~~was~~ ^{was} not without effort that ^{every} this sum was at last obtained for it. Handsome as it was, & attractive, it is not an article often used here, and could not be made useful by one family in a hundred, to speak within bounds. - Mr. Michell's box did not bring the hoped for sum; but it brought \$30., and has gone into the possession of a Salem gentleman named Porter. It was a beautiful thing - the imitations of flowers, leaves, and of the pine-cone, were exceedingly delicate & curious. It was much admired by all; it was thought it would prove difficult to keep it long in the clean & excellent condition in which it arrived. - Our Annual Meeting closed a week ago Friday; it was one of the best. We had good & interesting discussion throughout. All spoke well, & Wendell Phillips seemed almost inspired. The closing Session was held in Faneuil Hall, which, to the astonishment of most of us, was granted on our application. One of the penny papers said that the Abolitionists were a most pertinacious body; they would persevere in asking for whatever they thought they ought to have, and in that ^{way} they extorted a good deal even from their opponents & enemies. A small remnant of the George Thompson Mob tried to make trouble; but it was ineffectual. Not a word of what Garrison

or Phillips said was lost. ~ As soon as the Annual Report is printed, we shall send a Box to England, containing Liberty Bells, Reports, This will be within 2 weeks, probably.

I am you, & your daughter, debtor too for much interesting printed matter, as well as a letter from her, by the Bazaar box. The documents I have distributed pretty freely, and they are very acceptable. I have sent them to New York & Phila^a as well as hereabouts; and the little pamphlets, containing the account of the Songs of the London Meeting, I have sent round among our best ministers. { At Annual Meeting, by the way, Rev. John T. Sargent, long a Unitarian minister, & connected with some of our oldest & worthiest families, was chosen one of ^{our} the Board of Managers, and he has expressed much satisfaction in the choice. I can't help saying that if intelligence, moral worth, and true respectability, would set up a cause, & make it triumphant, ours would be gloriously successful. But after all it is the cause which honors ^{men} ~~the~~ it is little that they can do for it; but that little is worth the devotion of the whole life.) I am very glad to get Mr. Davies's book, and have read it with great interest. Anne Weston has read it, too, & ~~liked~~ liked it very much. He has a quiet satire upon our men & institutions, which are very effective. But in all his penetration in other matters, he appears to me ~~very~~ ^{too} readily blinded & deceived by the clerical garb. He appears to place a ~~very~~ high estimate upon the services & meetings, & operations generally, of the religious people South & North. Perhaps I state my meaning rather too strongly; but I had the feeling, repeatedly, while reading his book, that he enjoyed the sermons & prayers of those

knew to be pro-slavery men, deriving their support from slaveholders, living in the midst of all the abominations of Slavery without any protest against it or them; Heretics, free-thinkers, anti-orthodox men, he looked upon with a genuine sectarian & bigoted feeling. ~~And~~ Certainly, he does not fail to expose the pro-slavery delinquencies of orthodox preachers & hearers; but still, he appears to think them ~~quite~~ orthodox, unquestionably Christians, belonging to the true Church, able & effective exponents of the Gospel, notwithstanding the serious exception of their proslavery. — He appears to have faithfully borne his antislavery testimonies on all suitable occasions. I don't know how it happened that the book has not become better known here. Mr. D., I think, should have taken pains to forward copies here for sale. I doubt if ever they have been; for Mr. Gay, of the "Standard" has never seen the book, though he saw Mr. Davie, while here, & felt an interest to know how he would speak & write about this country. I think it a decidedly valuable book. I shall send the book, or extracts from it, to Mr. Gay, after Mr. Garrison & a few others have seen it.

I read, with no little interest the report of the Matthews meeting in Bristol. He certainly made out a good case, as against the "Evangelical Alliance". What is the use of people saying they are resolutely opposed to Slavery, & think it should be abolished, while they keep up the most intimate social and religious fellowship with Slaveholders,

and never do the first anti-slavery act? The
Rev. ^{9, 11.} ~~Mr.~~ Davis seems to be one of those self-conceited,
bustling, overbearing, impudent individuals, of whom
we are not without numerous specimens in
America, who carry many points by sheer
brow-beating & audacity, but who seldom win the
respect or confidence of anybody. (What was the
matter ~~with~~ in Mr. Armstrong's family, that detained
him from the Broadmead Meeting?) - I felt sorry
to hear that Geo. Thompson had been so severe upon
Mr. Mattheus. I had not observed it in reading over
his Bristol Speech, which I did to be sure rather hurriedly.
I suppose it was his "liberty-party" position, that of a
voted sender & supporter of this Government, that he
designed specifically to attack. Your acquaintance
with Mattheus, & close observation of him, certainly
entitle your judgment of him to be accepted. I
think it evident that he can do an important
work in Gr. Britain - the more so, because he will
be generally deemed impartial & unbiased as a
witness in regard to the American Churches on the
one hand, and the Am. A. S. Society on the other.
Still, I cannot agree with you, that (at least so
far as this country is concerned) we ought to
regard all who are not against us as for us.
We have had so much experience of false friends,
and of active, relentless enemies, that we have
come of necessity to think that all who are not
openly & frankly for us are, either openly or secretly,
against us, - upon whom we must not rely for
any amount of fidelity or service in emergencies.

I do not say this to intimate a distrust in this particular case, which I do not feel.

I knew you would enjoy the visit from Mr. Chapman & party; and I was very glad they had the opportunity to meet you & your daughter in your own home. - I feel exceedingly obliged to her, for her note by the Bristol box; many of our A.S. friends have seen it with great pleasure. Her views of our American friends are of course very interesting to us; and her sketch of operations, as conducted by the Bristol & Clifton Society, proves her to be an able tactician, & well qualified to be a "Manager" of the Cause, in the best sense. - I wholly agree with you in what you say of their going to France again. And, as affairs have turned out there, I am led to think their winter's residence has been far from comfortable. Their letters to their friends are very guardedly written, ~~as if~~ as if they were suspicious of their correspondence being examined.

I had not seen or heard of R. Carpenter's article in Chr. Ref. I have come to think that his giving out will not be very decided or valuable any way. If we come across his pamphlet, however, ^{it will} ~~we shall~~ undoubtedly get a notice.

I cannot give F. Douglass credit for any conscientious regrets of his past severity towards pro-slavery religionists. He may feel, as all of us must, that there is a danger, not merely in our hostile attitude to the accepted religion of the country, but in all antagonism; and especially, in such an Ishmaelitic warfare as Truth & Honesty compel ours to be. To sustain it, faithfully, and

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yet keep a calm & placid temper, to guard
our spirits against bitterness, and to keep the
true fire of Love to God and Love to Man burning
our hearts, amidst such damps, miasmas, & choking
vapours, is doubtless very ~~difficult~~ difficult, - may be
considered our spiritual trial. But, if I am not
utterly blinded & perverted in perception & in spirit,
is a trial which our friends Garrison, Jackson, Phillips
and scores more I could name, have not only borne
successfully, but one from which they have come forth
purified, lifted up, tenfold the men, intellectually
& spiritually, they were before - & without the smell of
fire on their garments. - I reiterate my testimony about
Mr. Garrison - every year & every ^{month} ~~year~~ give new
proof of it - that he possesses one of the most gentle
affectionate, kindly natures I ever met with. He re-
sists of meeting & relieving, with word & deed, the oft-
recurring cases of suffering & perplexity. That which
would disturb & ruffle another he meets with calmness
& patience; and it is a fact that, as one & another
become personally acquainted with him, they never fail
to express their surprise that he is so unlike what he
has been represented to be, and what indeed, from an
occasional perusal of his writings (coupled with pre-con-
ceived ideas) they had supposed him to be. **H** But I
have wandered from Douglass. I have little confidence
in any improvement, of a religious nature, in his mind
or character. He has given small proof of this; and
his talk at Providence was made, I think, to call
in support, or conciliate favour, in ^a quarters where
he knew ^{such talk} it would take well, and where any specious